

Respectfully submitted,

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BY 

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claims 4-8 have been amended as follows:

4. (Once Amended) A koji mold according to claim 1 [to 3,] which is *Aspergillus oryzae* I-2165 (NF14).

5. (Once Amended) A koji mold according to claim 1 [to 4,] wherein the *creA* gene or a functional derivative thereof is overexpressed.

6. (Once Amended) A method of producing proteolytic enzymes, comprising cultivating a koji mold [according to claims 1-5] belonging to the genus belonging to the genus *Aspergillus*, *Rhizopus*, *Mucor*, or *Penicillium*, the proteolytic activity of which is not carbon repressed and wherein the *creA* gene has been mutated such that the gene product thereof is essentially nonfunctional in a suitable growth medium in the presence of a carbon source under conditions that the mold expresses proteolytic enzymes[, and optionally isolating the enzymes in the form of a concentrate].

7. (Once Amended) [Use of the koji mold according to claim 1-5] A method for [the hydrolysis of] hydrolyzing protein-containing materials comprising the steps of using a Koji mold belonging to the genus *Aspergillus*, *Rhizopus*, *Mucor*, or *Penicillium*, the proteolytic activity of which is not carbon repressed and wherein the *creA* gene has been mutated such that the gene product thereof is essentially nonfunctional.

8. (Once Amended) The method [Use] according to claim 7, in combination with at least an enzyme [and/or] or a microorganism providing a prolidase activity.

Claims 9-18 have been added.